

Report of the fourteenth Anniversary of the reorganization
of the Universalist Sunday School
the 3rd Sunday in November 1867

Our Annual Report for this year, the fourteenth Anniversary of the reorganization of our Sunday School, will be brief; and will be confined to a simple statement of the present condition of the school, and to a few statistics showing the work and attendance of the past year.

Our statistics are not so full as we desire as the records of attendance for the first three months of the year are imperfect. For the remainder of the year a correct record has been kept and our account attendance will be confined to this period, the last nine months.

Perhaps at no time in the history of the school has it been in a more prosperous condition than during the year just passed. Nor has there been a time when a greater degree of interest has been manifested by teachers and scholars.

In our report of last year we have the total number of pupils as 138. 86 girls and 52 boys. Our total number at this time is 171. 104 girls and 67 boys showing a gain of 33, 18 girls and 15 boys over the number belonging to the school one year since, and a gain over the highest number which the school had previously reached of 26. The number of officers and teachers at the present time is 24 making the total number connected with the school 195.

The average attendant since March 24 has been 113 scholars, of teachers and officers 21 total average attendance 134. The highest number was July 14, 162 and the lowest September 1, 67.

The Session Books required for the year have been furnished by the "Ladies Social Circle" and 90 Copies of the Myrtle published semi monthly making a total of 2160 copies distributed to the school during the year.

The school in connection with the society held a PicNic in Walnut Grove Middleton July 24. Not less than 450 persons were present. The day was pleasant and the occasion will be remembered with pleasure by all.

Three Concerts have been given since our last annual meeting. The number would have been greater but for the repairs now in progress on the church.

In November of last year a Teacher's Union consisting of the officers and teachers of the U. Sunday Schools in Beverly, Danvers, Salem, So. Danvers, Marblehead and Lynn was formed, and, with the exception of the Summer months, regular meetings have been held on the 2 Sunday in each month. These meetings have contributed largely to increase the interest in all of the schools whose teachers have taken an active interest in them. We believe that our own school would be still more benefitted if a larger number of our teachers would attend the meetings.

During the month of August last while the school was taking a vacation for three weeks only, two "Little Lambs" of our flock were called away by their Heavenly Father from this school to their final home in heaven. Thomas B. Knowland a boy of only 7 years, and no scholar loved the school better or was more constant in attendance, and Buxton of about the same age who joined the school only a few months before her death. We miss them here,

but we know that they have gone to be with him who said "Of such is the kingdom of Heaven" and in his keeping we know that they are blessed.

We think the facts already stated will warrant the conclusion that our school is in a highly satisfactory condition. The number of pupils is large as compared with the number of families connected with the society, the average attendance is good as compared with other schools, and the interest shown by teachers in their respective classes and in the general welfare of the school has been such as to create an interest on the part of pupils.

Without extending this Report beyond what we intended it should be, a brief statement of facts, we may suggest that notwithstanding the present favorable condition of the school and of the increased numbers and zeal, yet we have but just begun to realize what can be accomplished by faithful and persistent effort. Whatever point of excellence may have been realized there is still room for further improvement. Even the present prosperous condition of the school cannot be maintained without constant watchfulness and care. In order to secure the attendance of pupils, teachers must be present with their classes and in case of the continued absence of any scholar they should ascertain the cause.

The field for work is ample, we have room for more and shall give a cordial greeting to all who may be brought in.

If all are faithful we shall make a large addition both of teachers and pupils during the year upon which we have just entered.

